

OPINION 1866

***Hydromantes* Gistel, 1848 (Amphibia, Caudata): *Spelerpes platycephalus* Camp, 1916 designated as the type species**

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Amphibia; PLETHODONTIDAE; salamanders; *Hydromantes*; *Hydromantes genei*; *Hydromantes platycephalus*; Italy; France; Sardinia; California.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers:
 - (a) the name *Geotriton* Bonaparte, [1832] is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
 - (b) all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Hydromantes* Gistel, 1848 are hereby set aside and *Spelerpes platycephalus* Camp, 1916 is designated as the type species.
- (2) The name *Hydromantes* Gistel, 1848 (gender: masculine), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above *Spelerpes platycephalus* Camp, 1916, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *platycephalus* Camp, 1916, as published in the binomen *Spelerpes platycephalus* (specific name of the type species of *Hydromantes* Gistel, 1848), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Geotriton* Bonaparte, [1832], as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *Hydromantoides* Lanza & Vanni, 1981 (a junior objective synonym of *Hydromantes* Gistel, 1848).

History of Case 2868

An application to conserve the usage of the name *Hydromantes* Gistel, 1848 by the designation of *Salamandra genei* Temminck & Schlegel, 1838 as the type species of the genus was received from Prof Hobart M. Smith (*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.*) and Dr David B. Wake (*Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*) on 16 November 1992. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 50: 219–223 (September 1993). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

It was noted on the voting paper that Bonaparte ([1832]) established *Geotriton* based on the nominal species *Salamandra exigua* Laurenti, 1768. Dunn (1923) and Dubois (1984) accepted *S. exigua* as a salamandrid, and Duellman & Trueb (1986) treated *Geotriton* as a junior synonym of *Triturus* Rafinesque, 1815 (= *Triton* Laurenti, 1768) in the SALAMANDRIDAE. *Geotriton* was used as a valid name until 1923 and included species now placed in the PLETHODONTIDAE; Bonaparte ([1837]) included '*Salamandra fusca* Laurenti, 1768' (a misidentification of *Hydromantes italicus* Dunn, 1923) and Tschudi ([1838]) placed *Salamandra genei* Temminck & Schlegel, 1838 in the genus. Dubois (1984; see also BZN 52: 185, para. 4) considered that Bonaparte's ([1832]) use of '*Salamandra exigua*' as the basis of *Geotriton* was a misidentification of *Hydromantes italicus*, like his ([1837]) use of '*S. fusca*'.

Dunn (1923, 1926) resurrected *Hydromantes* Gistel, 1848 for species placed in the PLETHODONTIDAE. Although this was incorrect, since *Hydromantes* was a replacement name for *Geotriton*, *Hydromantes* has been very widely used during the past 70 years and the application sought its conservation by the designation of a plethodontid type species.

Dubois (1984) adopted *Hydromantoides* Lanzi & Vanni, 1981 for the American group of plethodontid species, and placed the European species in the new subgenus *Speleomantes* (type species *Hydromantes italicus*). This action addressed the nomenclatural problem (the fact that *Hydromantes* was a replacement for *Geotriton*) but did not preserve the long use of *Hydromantes* in the PLETHODONTIDAE. It was with the latter aim that Prof Smith and Dr Wake sought the designation of the plethodontid *Salamandra genei* as the type species of *Hydromantes*.

Comments in support were published in BZN 51: 149–153 (June 1994): Dr Mark R. Jennings (*Fish and Wildlife Service, National Ecology Research Center, Davis, California, U.S.A.*), Dr Harold A. Dundee (*Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.*), Prof Georgio Mancino (*Università degli Studi di Pisa, Ghezzano, Italy*), Prof Benedetto Lanza (*Università degli Studi di Firenze, Firenze, Italy*), Dr Robert G. Webb (*University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas, U.S.A.*), Dr Mario García Paris (*Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid, Spain*), Dr W.R. Branch (*Port Elizabeth Museum, Humewood, South Africa*), Dr David A. Good (*Louisiana State University, Museum of Natural Science, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, U.S.A.*), Dr Robert F. Inger (*Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.*), Dr David M. Hillis (*The University of Texas, Austin, Texas, U.S.A.*), Dr Francis R. Cook (*Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada*) and Prof Robert C. Stebbins (*University of California, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*). A note of further support from Drs Merel J. Cox (*Bangkok, Thailand*), Robert A. Thomas (*Society for Environmental Education, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.*), Joseph T. Collins (*The University of Kansas, Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*), James Lazell (*The Conservation Agency, Conanicut Island, Rhode Island, U.S.A.*), Robert C. Drewes (*California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*), Robert G. Zweifel (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) and Paul Chippindale (*The University of Texas, Austin, Texas, U.S.A.*) was published at the same time.

An opposing comment from Prof Alain Dubois (*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France*) was published in BZN 52: 183–186 (June 1995). A reply by the authors of the application, together with Dr Mark R. Jennings, was published in BZN 52: 267–269 (September 1995).

A comment from Dr Sebastiano Salvidio (*Istituto di Zoologia, Università di Genova, Genova, Italy*), published in BZN 52: 339–340 (December 1995), reiterated part of Dubois's text in pointing out that, whilst the usage of *Hydromantes* had generally been maintained in North America, the name *Speleomantes* Dubois, 1984 had been adopted for plethodontid species by a number of European authors during the last 10 years (cf. paras. 5 and 7 of the application), and that approval of the application would maintain stability on the North American side of the Atlantic but would cause confusion and instability on the European side. In a further comment (BZN 52: 340–342) Dubois put forward revised proposals. He suggested that, instead

of designating the European species *Salamandra genei* as the type of *Hydromantes*, as originally proposed by Smith & Wake in their application, the American species *Speleperpes platycephalus* Camp, 1916 be designated the type, and that *Hydromantoides* (which would become a junior objective synonym of *Hydromantes*) be placed on the Official Index. Dubois proposed (BZN 52: 341) that to avoid future confusion the disused name *Geotriton* be suppressed except for purposes of homonymy. Neither *Geotriton* nor *exigua* were mentioned, even as synonyms, in Frost (1985).

The revised proposals by Dubois were welcomed and endorsed by Smith, Wake & Jennings (BZN 53: 48; March 1996). Smith (*in litt.*, October 1995) also noted that Dr James Hanken (*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.*) had 'given his unqualified approval' to the proposed solution. Approval by the Commission would conserve the usage of the name *Hydromantes* for authors wishing to place both American and European plethodontid species in the genus, while leaving *Speleomantes* available for use for European species by those wishing to recognise a distinct genus or subgenus. This would maintain the stability of usage of both names.

The revised proposals, published in BZN 52: 341–342 (December 1995), were offered for voting.

Decision of the Commission

On 16 September 1996 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 52: 341–342. At the close of the voting period on 16 December 1996 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 24: Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kabata, Kerzhner, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song, Štys

Negative votes — none.

Dupuis abstained.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Dupuis commented: 'I refuse to vote on this case because in my personal view the time between the last comment and the distribution of voting papers was too short. The last comment was less than one year old'. [*Editorial note.* The comment was one of support. An explanation of procedure followed in sending cases for voting is given on pp. 53–54].

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Geotriton Bonaparte, [1832], *Iconografia della fauna Italica per le quattro classi degli animali vertebrati*, vol. 2 (Amfibi), fasc. 1, pp. [243]–[244].

Hydromantes Gistel, 1848, *Naturgeschichte des Thierreiches für höhere Schulen*, p. xi.

Hydromantoides Lanza & Vanni, 1981, *Monitore Zoologico Italiano*, (n.s.)15: 119.

platycephalus, *Speleperpes*, Camp, 1916, *University of California Publications in Zoology*, 17(3): 11.